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Letter dated 15 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 26 August 1998 (A/52/1024-S/1998/812), I have the honour to draw your attention to a new violation of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by a military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 14 September 1998.

On that day, one Turkish B-200 military aircraft entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria and landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the Turkish occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus. In the afternoon of the same day, the aircraft returned to the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, such intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against this new provocative act by Turkey, a Member State of the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. This act is in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 62 of the agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative